

A clear picture of the future

Rockwood TV Sales and Service celebrates 25 years of business - and more

By DEBORAH QUAIL

Rob Gray knew what he wanted. After working for John Salmon for five years, he decided to purchase his television business, move it to Rockwood's Alma Street plaza from its location on Highway 24, and become the proprietor of Rockwood TV. Rob, who had already operated a

ing site. He's been a member of the March Blahs Committee since its inception and also does "various forms of entertainment - dances, parties, and events - for fun." Because of his love of good

melodies, Rob has music playing at his home inside and out "24-7," and further uses those DJ skills to provide commentary with Neil Millson for the taped viewings of the Farmers' Parade of Lights.

"Last year we did the parade taping live, which was much better." He grins as he recalls the first unofficial parade that serenaded the people of Rockwood. "We unknowingly broke every rule in the book. The

Carolyn Wingate joined the lineup about 1980 and is "certainly on the front line now," adds Rob. The closely-knit team continues to offer personal sales and service, and

IN THE BEGINNING: Rob Gray, left, owner of Rockwood T.V., and assistant Art Davis as seen in the Acton Free Press's article highlighting the new business on August 9, 1978.



ABOVE: Rob Gray, left, and Carolyn Wingate display some of the latest television technology in the store. PHOTO BY DEB QUAIL



DJ service for about six years, was a familiar face in the surrounding area. His assistant, Art Davis, worked with electronics for decades and had already been repairing televisions for the previous eight years. Art stayed on in the business to continue his craftsmanship until his retirement - which occurred once or twice, just because he was so in



tune with his work.

"Over the years we've had different technicians," notes Rob, "but the business used to be [jokingly] known as 'Art's TV' because Art was in the shop when I was on the road."

As well as his store, Rob and his partner Randy Parkinson have made gallons of golden maple syrup for 35 years at his process-

police said they didn't have enough paper in the office to do anything about it, so we just went home."

Residents will also know Tom Parkinson, who works in conjunction with Rockwood TV. Tom began installing and repairing antenna systems, and has developed into one of the area's experts on satellites.

in-home consultations for customers who are interested in items ranging from home theatre to surround sound. The store conveniently services all makes and models.

Rockwood TV soon outgrew the 1,000 square foot plaza space and about 1985 moved to its present location at 273 Alma Street, where the business has 3,000 square feet, housing a better showroom and workspace.

In June Rob and Carolyn celebrated a memorable 25 years in business.

"We've gone from picture tubes to plasma," Carolyn adds, "and BETA to DVD players. The changes have been phenomenal."

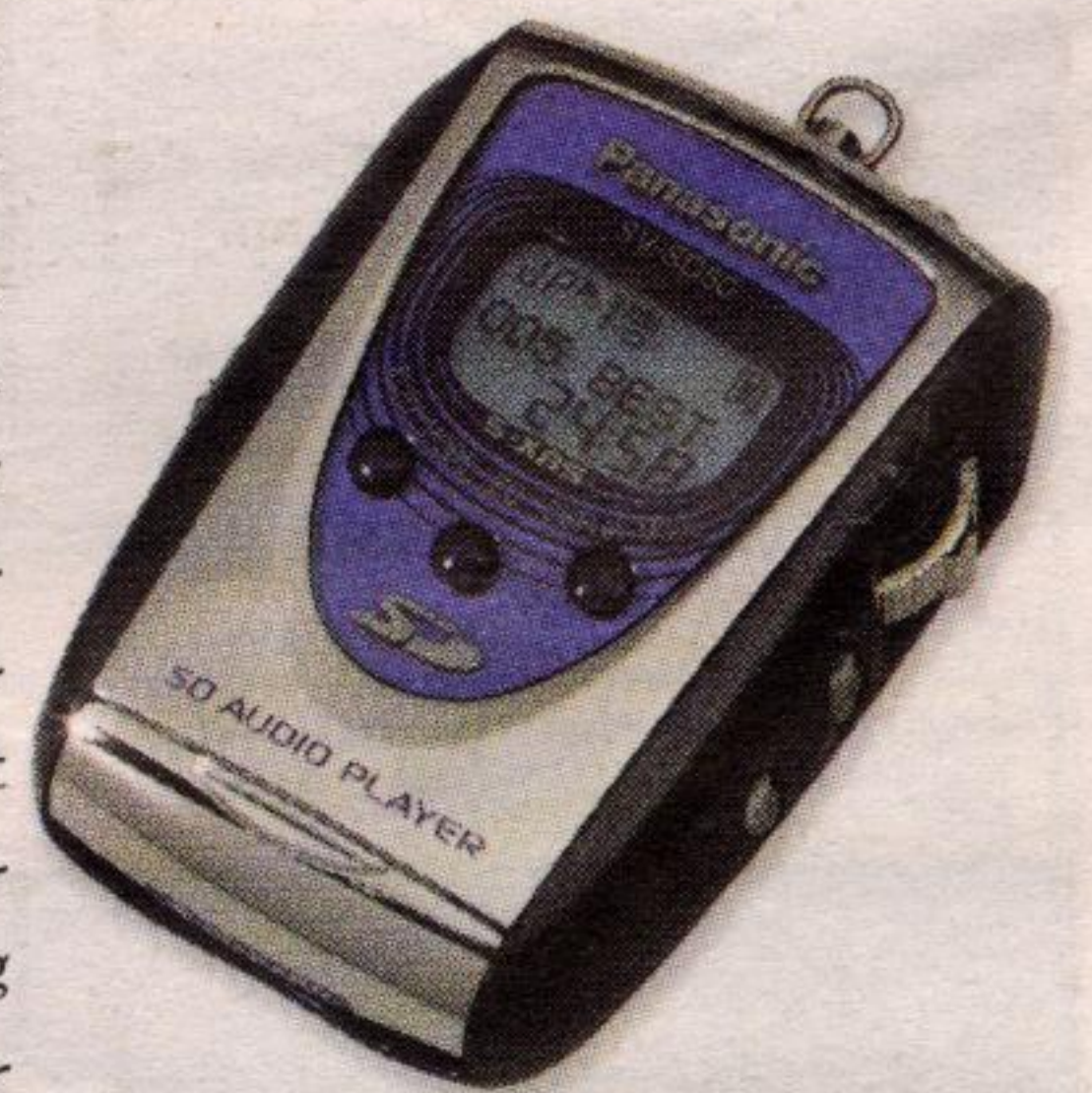
"The environment is also

changing the industry by dictating that glass picture tubes are replaced. The future will be flat panel TVs. I predict that in about five years glass will be gone," Rob says. "As most people know, there's a convergence of computers, home theatres, satellites and projection TVs."

To celebrate their 25th anniversary, Rockwood TV will be holding an entertaining evening at the Rockmosa Community Centre on Thursday, October 16 to introduce a vision of the future. There will be door prizes, refreshments, and demonstrations from all the manufacturers' representatives that Rockwood TV promotes. It promises to be an enjoyable evening where visitors can imagine them-

selves in their new home theatre environment, view shows on screen, or dare to dream about the sound system they'd like to install.

"The electronics business holds a fascination for me that hasn't lost its charm during the years. At the anniversary party, we want to show people what's coming for the next 25 years," Rob says.



Rockwood T.V.
273 Alma Street, Rockwood
tel: 519-856-9825

You're invited to celebrate Rockwood T.V.'s

Manufacturers' demos

Refreshments



25th Anniversary!
Thurs., Oct. 16
5 to 10 pm

Panasonic

Simply Better!



Door Prizes

Rockmosa Community Centre, Rockwood